Guidelines for Nonpoint Source Projects for FY2002

May 7, 2001

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Environmental Protection – Division of Watershed Management has been involved in funding nonpoint source projects since FY1993. Beginning with State FY1997, the project areas were expanded to include all the regions of the State. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - Division of Watershed Management is seeking applicants for FY2002 interested in obtaining grants for nonpoint source projects from funds available through 319(h). In this funding cycle, the Department will support projects throughout the five water regions, which encompass the twenty watershed management areas.

The projects are intended to focus on specific measures that will address potential and/or existing impairments within an area that will discharge to lakes, bathing areas, drinking water intakes, shellfish beds, special aquatic habitats, as well as stream corridor integrity. Some examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to, urban retrofit, stream bank restoration, structural and nonstructural stormwater management and/or water quality measures, development of regional stormwater management plans, assessment to identify specific projects for future implementation, and implementation of projects to meet Nonpoint Source Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Eligible activities include technical assistance, monitoring (to assess the success of specific nonpoint source implementation projects), ground water activities, and resource restoration.

The projects that will receive priority are those which propose one of the following: implementation of a stormwater management and/or water quality measure to improve an existing impairment on the 303d list; implementation of a stormwater management and/or water quality measure to prevent future impairment at an Ambient Biological Monitoring Station or in a Category I water; implementation of a stormwater management and/or water quality measure that has been identified under previous assessment projects, such as TMDLs; and developing regional stormwater management plans. A portion of the funds will be targeted towards improving the water quality in lakes. Guidance regarding stormwater management and water quality measures is available in the NJ Best Management Practices for Control of Nonpoint Pollution from Stormwater and Restoration of Urban Streams: Practical Evaluation of Options for 319(h) Funded Projects. Both documents are available at our website at www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt, under the Nonpoint Source Program.

Entities that may be eligible for funding include local governments, cities, counties; regional development centers; local school systems, colleges and universities; local non-profit organizations; state or federal agencies; local or county environmental commissions; and watershed and water resource associations. Funding may not be used on **private lands** with the exception of demonstration projects, or if maintenance, access, and conservation easements have been obtained for the area by an eligible entity. Demonstration projects reflect innovative methods in addressing nonpoint source issues.

The pre-proposal submission deadline is September 17, 2001. The initial project selection should be performed between the Watershed Region and the Public Advisory Committee. If you are interested in submitting a pre-proposal for consideration, please contact the team leader for the region. Guidelines for the full proposal requirements will be available on our website.

General Requirements for Submitting a Pre-proposal

1. Cover Page: Title of project, HUC-14 Code, Watershed Management Area Number, Watershed Region, Applicant's name, address, phone number, and contact person, and amount of money requested.

2. Grant Tracking Page: Type of waterbody affected (stream, lake, estuary, etc.); Is waterbody on the 303d list? Anticipated project start and completion dates; NPS Category of Pollution (See Attachment A); NPS Functional Category of Activity (See Attachment B); Brief Project description.

3. Submit twelve (12) copies of the pre-proposal with no more than 4 single pages of text, a location map, and a conceptual sketch of the proposed project, letters of resource commitment, and budget, which includes figures associated with tasks, and timeframe.

Objective:					
	Responsible party	Time Frame	Dates	Costs	Funding Source
Task 1					
Task 2					

4. Letters of Resource Commitment: One page letter from major project partners outlining commitment towards the project, and indicating their willingness to perform specific tasks outlined. This is a preliminary letter, and may need to be revised for the complete proposal.

All pre-proposals must address the following:

1. Identify how this project addresses a priority for these funds, as described in the preceding page.

   For example, the project will assist in improving the water quality for a moderately impaired site number ABC through the implementation of XYZ Best Management Practices. It is anticipated that the implementation of XYZ will result in _____.

2. Project description with USGS map, and conceptual sketch.

3. Indicate how the measures proposed will result in an improvement to water quality, and the reason it was selected for this specific site. It must be demonstrated that any stormwater management and/or water quality measure addresses the pollutant of concern.

   For example: The site is a eutrophic lake that is receiving stormwater discharge from seven outfall structures. Three of the seven outfalls have been selected for XYZ retrofit because it was determined that 85% of the drainage area discharges into the lake through these structures. The XYZ retrofit is a practice that has been shown to remove 60% of the pollutant X of concern in this area.

4. Indicate what measures (if any) in the past have been done to address this issue, and how will this project utilize information previously documented to create a better project.

5. Indicate issues that must be resolved in order to move forward with this project: permit issues, additional funding, additional partners.

Organizational Capacity of Project Partners: Discuss qualification of lead organization and partners to perform this task, such as history of involvement with the problem, need or issue, experience of project partners. Cooperative partnerships within the project areas are encouraged

Indicate the objective of the project, and the tasks needed to implement the project. For each task, identify the partners and their role.

Long Term Commitment: Projects should have a long-range plan/commitment to show that efforts would extend beyond the proposed project if objectives are not achieved within the project period or if long-term maintenance is required. Provide a narrative explanation demonstrating the applicant's commitment for continued implementation of the program. This must include the projected long-term use of any equipment or capital materials purchased within the scope of the grant award.

Please note: Quarterly performance and expenditure reports are required for every project. In addition, a final report must be submitted upon the completion of the project. The report must be deemed acceptable prior to the release of final payment to the grantee by the Department. Guidance regarding the quarterly and final reports are available on our website at www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt under the Nonpoint Source Program.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan

All projects that include environmental monitoring, measurements, or data generation must have an approved quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) plan. For projects that involve water quality data, the QA/QC will include a project specific monitoring plan. A copy of the QA/QC guidelines is available upon request.

Geographic Information System Data

All activities that have a GIS component must follow GIS guidance. If the applicant involved is not capable of following this guidance, the costs associated with GIS are not eligible for funding. This may affect the technical competency of the project. A copy of the GIS guidelines is available upon request.

Qualifications for Eligibility

In order to be eligible for these funds, the applicant and/or its subcontractor must have the following qualifications:

- Staff and resources with the capability, expertise and environmental experience to perform the proposed work.
- Ability and authority to implement the proposed project.
- Ability to establish and maintain partnerships for project implementation.

Entities that may be eligible for funding include regional comprehensive planning or health organizations and coalitions (formal or informal) of municipal, county governments and/or local or county environmental commissions; watershed and water resource associations; non-profit organizations 501(c)(3), including, but not limited to the following:

- Municipal planning departments or boards
- Municipal health departments or boards
- County planning departments, health departments or boards
- Designated water quality management planning agencies

- State and regional entities entirely within New Jersey
- State government agencies, universities and colleges
- Federal government
- Interstate agencies of which New Jersey is a member
- Intrastate regional entities

Non-Eligible Activities

Nonpoint source funds may **not** be used for the following purposes:

- Implementation of permit application requirements of EPA, State, or local storm water regulations
- Implementation of activities required by the NJPDES regulations
- Funding the purchase of land, major capital improvements, or computer hardware.
- Implementation of lake dredging, weed harvesting, or dam maintenance without addressing the sources of the NPS pollutants causing the impairment.
- Funding BMP implementation on **private lands** with the exception of demonstration projects. Demonstration projects involve the utilization of innovative methods in addressing nonpoint source issues.
- Funding food or promotional items.
- Other non-eligible activities based on current EPA guidelines for Section 319(h) grants
- General Education and Outreach (Note: Funds can be used for education and outreach only if a specific population and action have been identified as the cause for the impairment.)

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MEASURES AND INDICATORS OF PROGRESS AND SUCCESS

The following list illustrates measures and indicators that cooperators may use to assess success of their projects. Projects may identify and use other measures and indicators that are more relevant. Well-designed projects will usually include several appropriate measures and indicators form each of the categories set forth below. Federal, state, and other public and private partners have adopted core indicators to report nationally to measure attainment of five specific objectives. These five objectives are preserving and enhancing public health, preserving and enhancing ecosystem health, supporting uses designated by States and Tribes in their water quality standards, conserving or improving ambient conditions, and reducing or preventing pollutant loadings and other stressors. For nonpoint source pollution control, these five objectives are characterized by the measures and indicators presented below. The approaches shown below are presented as examples and may be modified to fit the needs of a particular project.

WQ Improvement From NPS Controls

Number of river/stream miles, lake acres, and estuarine and coastal square miles that fully support all designated beneficial uses.

Number of river/stream miles, lake acres, and estuarine and coastal square miles that come into compliance with one or more designated uses (e.g., a river segment that is neither fishable now swimmable becomes fishable), or with one or more numeric water quality criteria (e.g., achieve a criterion for phosphorous while continuing to exceed a criterion for nitrogen).

Demonstrable improvements in relevant surface and ground water quality parameters.

Demonstrable improvements in biological or physical parameters (e.g., increase in diverse fish or macroinvertebrate populations, or improved riparian areas or other measures of habitat).

Opening of previously closed shellfish beds and beaches.

Lifting of fish consumption advisories

Prevention of new impairments (e.g., number of river miles removed from the 303(d) lists, or number of miles of high-quality waters protected).

NPS Pollutant Load Reduction

Reductions in pollutant loadings (e.g., by pounds or percentage) from NPS in priority watersheds identified.

Statewide reduction in NPS pollutant loadings.

In the case of NPS pollution that may result from activities conducted in the future, prevention or minimization of new loadings, and/or offset of new loadings by reductions from existing sources.

A reduction in frequencies, or prevention of increases, of peak flows in developing or developed areas.

Implementation of NPS Controls

Number of measures implemented in watersheds with impaired/threatened waters (e.g., number of on-the-ground practices implemented that reflect, for example, the "best practicable" approach to solve the identified problem.)

Percentages of "needed" measures implemented in watersheds of impaired waters(e.g., where watershed analysis has shown the need to implement measures at 20 sites, annual progress in implementing a watershed project can be shown by the number of BMPs installed.)

Percentages of priority ground water addressed by nonpoint source controls

Public Education, Awareness, and Action

Participation rates in various NPS activities, such as citizen monitoring and watershed restoration activities.

Attachment A

NPS Category of Pollution

CODE	DESCRIPTION
1000	**Agriculture**
1050	Crop-Related Sources
1100	Non-irrigated Crop Production
1200	Irrigated Crop Production
1300	Specialty Crop Production
1350	Grazing-Related Sources
1400	Pasture Grazing - Riparian and/or Upland
1410	Pasture Grazing - Riparian
1420	Pasture Grazing – Upland
1500	Range Grazing – Riparian and/or Upland
1510	Range Grazing – Riparian
1520	Range Grazing – Upland
1600	Intensive Animal Feeding Operations
1640	Confined Animal Feeding Operations (NPS)
1700	Aquaculture
2000	**Silviculture**
2100	Harvesting/Restoration/Residue Management
2200	Forest Management
2300	Logging Road Construction / Maintenance
2400	Silvicultural Point Sources
3000	**Construction**
3100	Highway/Road/Bridge Construction
3200	Land Development
4000	**Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers**
4100	Non-Industrial Permitted
4200	Industrial Permitted
4300	Other Urban Runoff
4400	Illicit Connections / Illegal Hook-ups / Dry Weather Flows
4500	Highway/Road/Bridge Runoff
4600	Erosion and Sedimentation
5000	**Resource Extraction**
5100	Surface Mining
5200	Subsurface Mining
5300	Placer Mining
5400	Dredge Mining
5500	Petroleum Activities
5600	Mill Tailings
5700	Mine Tailings
5800	Acid Mine Drainage
5900	Abandoned Mining
5950	Inactive Mining
6000	**Land Disposal**
6100	Sludge
6200	Wastewater
6300	Landfills
6350	Inappropriate Waste Disposal / Wildcat Dumping
6400	Industrial Land Treatment
6500	On-site Wastewater Systems
6600	Hazardous Waste
6700	Septage Disposal
7000	**Hydromodification**
7100	Channelization
7200	Dredging
7300	Dam Construction
7350	Upstream Impoundment
7400	Flow Regulation / Modification
7550	Habitat Modification
7600	Removal of Riparian Vegetation
7700	Streambank Modification / Destabilization
7800	Drainage / Filling of Wetlands
7900	Marinas and Recreational Boating
7910	In-Water Releases
7920	On-Land Releases
8000	Other NPS Pollution
8050	Erosion from Derelict Land
8100	Atmospheric Deposition
8200	Waste Storage / Storage Tank Leaks (above ground)
8250	Waste Storage / Storage Tank Leaks (underground)
8300	Highway Maintenance / Runoff
8400	Spills
8500	Contaminated Sediments
8520	Debris and Bottom Deposits
8530	Internal Nutrient Cycling (primarily) lakes
8540	Sediment Resuspension
8600	Natural Sources
8700	Recreation and Tourism Activities (non-boating)
8710	Golf Courses
8800	Upstream Impoundment
8900	Salt Storage Sites
8910	Groundwater Loadings
8920	Groundwater Withdrawal
8950	Other
9000	**Source Unknown**

Attachment B

NPS Functional Category of Activity

CODE DESCRIPTION

000 Demonstration Projects

BMP/Corrective Action Activities

010 BMP/Corrective Action Activities
011 BMP Design/Implementation
012 BMP Performance/Assessment
013 Livestock Management Projects
014 Fencing for Livestock Distribution
015 Livestock Exclusion Projects
016 Vegetation Management/Revegetation
017 Stream Bank Stabilization
018 Grade Stabilization
019 Road Sediment Control
020 Stormwater Discharge Design/Control
021 Erosion Control Projects
022 Acquisition of Wetland Resources
023 Wetland Projects
024 Acquisition of Riparian Resources
025 Riparian Projects
026 Fisheries Projects
027 Other BMP/Corrective Action Activities

Education/Information Activities

100 Statewide Education/ Information Programs
600 Local/Specific target/Education/Information Programs

Technical Assistance to State/Local Govt. Activities

200 Technical Assistance to State/local
201 Nonpoint Source Program Overall Coordination/Management
202 Nonpoint Source Project Staffing
230 Technology Transfer to State/Local Government
290 Other Technical/Assistance activity (not described above)

CODE DESCRIPTION

300 Regulatory/Enforcement Activities

Planning Activities

401 Nutrient Management Planning Activities
402 Watershed Modeling (Planing) Activities
403 Stormwater Catch Basin Planning Activities
404 Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS)Development
410 Geographic Information System Activities
420 Basin Planning Activities
430 TMDL/WLAS Planning Activities
490 Other Planning Activities (not described above)

Water Quality/Assessment/Monitoring Activities

501 Instream Flow Assessments
502 Assessments for Compliance with Water Quality Standards
503 Wetland Assessment/Monitoring
504 Riparian Assessment/Monitoring
505 TMDL Assessments
510 Water Quality Trend Assessment Activities
520 Water Quality Problem Identification
590 Other W Q Assessment/Monitoring Activities (not described above)

700 Watershed Projects

800 319(h) National Monitoring Project

910 Ground water